an automatic conveyor for moving the reagent container relative to the plunger, wherein the conveyor is movable in a first direction to place the plunger in a position to open the stopper, and wherein the conveyor is movable in a second direction, opposite to the first direction, to place the plunger in a position to close the stopper; and

structure for translating movement of a pipetting-needle carrier to the plunger to cause movement of the plunger.

- 8. (Amended) The appliance of claim 7, wherein the structure for translating movement includes means for moving the plunger in a downward direction in response to movement of the pipetting-needle carrier in an upward direction.
- 9. (Amended) The appliance of claim 8, wherein the structure for translating movement includes two rocker arms and a stop rod, the stop rod being connected to and positioned between the two rocker arms, the stop rod also being connected to the pipetting-needle carrier, such that the stop rod moves with the pipetting-needle carrier.
- 10. (Amended) The appliance of claim 8, further comprising a traction drive for moving the pipetting-needle carrier.
- 11. (Amended) The appliance of claim 7, wherein the structure for translating movement includes a thrust plate and a catch member, wherein the thrust plate is engagable with the plunger, and wherein the catch member is connected to a means for driving the pipetting-needle carrier, such that movement of the pipetting-needle carrier in a first direction results in movement of the catch member and thrust plate in a second direction opposite the first direction.



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